

FCC REPORT

OCT. – DEC. 2008

CRIME & VIOLENCE

12PM - 10/1

A COMPUTER ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY IS EXPECTED TO APPEAR IN COURT TODAY. PROSECUTORS SAY VICTOR PAPAGANO JUNIOR STOLE MORE THAN 19-THOUSAND PIECES OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FROM THE LAB. AND TODAY HE'S EXPECTED TO PLEAD GUILTY TO THEFT OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY. IN 2007, POLICE FOUND MORE THAN ONE AND A HALF MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF HARD DRIVES, ZIP DRIVES, FLOPPY DISKS AND C-D'S IN PAPAGANO'S HOME.

12PM - 10/22

NEW CARROLLTON POLICE CHIEF DAVID RICE HAS BEEN PLACED ON PAID LEAVE, WHILE MARYLAND STATE POLICE INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS BY OFFICERS ABOUT POSSIBLE WRONGDOING BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FORCE. THE WASHINGTON POST REPORTS THE PROBE WAS DISCLOSED IN AN E-MAIL TO CITY STAFF, SENT BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICER J-MICHAEL DOWNES. CHIEF RICE HAS NOT COMMENTED ON THE MATTER.

12PM - 11/14

TWO MORE MEN ARE NOW UNDER ARREST IN THE DEADLY SHOOTING OF A TEEN ON A MONTGOMERY COUNTY RIDE-ON BUS. U-S MARSHALS PICKED UP MARIO MILAN-CANALES {KAH-NAH'-LEZ} AND GILMAR ROMERO YESTERDAY IN HOUSTON. THEY WERE WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE KILLING OF 14-YEAR-OLD TAI LAM {LAMB}. POLICE ARRESTED THE ALLEGED TRIGGERMAN, 22-YEAR OLD HECTOR HERNANDEZ, ON SATURDAY. ALL THREE SUSPECTS ARE ALLEGED M-S-13 GANG MEMBERS.

5PM - 10/22

AND HERE IN WASHINGTON ... SEVERAL OFFICES ON CAPITOL HILL HAVE RECEIVED BOMB THREATS BY PHONE AND EMAIL. CAPITOL POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING... BUT SAY THERE IS *NO NEED* FOR STAFF TO TAKE ANY PRECAUTIONS. WE'LL LET YOU KNOW IF ANYTHING CHANGES.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

5AM - 11/19

THE OBAMA GIRLS ARE GETTING A GLIMPSE OF WHAT LIFE IN THE WHITE HOUSE WILL BE LIKE. YESTERDAY, THE BUSH TWINS GAVE MALIA {MUH-LEE'-UH} AND SASHA OBAMA A PRIVATE TOUR OF THE WHITE HOUSE RESIDENTIAL AREAS. EARLIER IN THE DAY.. THE OBAMA GIRLS VISITED SCHOOLS WITH THEIR MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER. THERE'S STILL NO WORD ON WHICH SCHOOL OR SCHOOLS THEY'LL ATTEND.

6AM - 10/15

FAIRFAX COUNTY IS TRYING TO STOP THE FINANCIAL BLEEDING AS WELL THIS MORNING. LEADERS ARE PROPOSING A ONE-DAY FURLOUGH OF ALL COUNTY EMPLOYEES, WHILE ORDERING ACROSS-THE-BOARD PROGRAM CUTS. HIRING, CAPITAL SPENDING AND TRAVEL HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO A GRINDING HAULT... AS THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE PREDICTS A 58-MILLION DOLLAR SHORTFALL. HE SAYS THE COUNTY *COULD BE IN FOR DEEP CUTS IN EDUCATION, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND HUMAN SERVICES.

12PM - 11/19

THE HEAD OF THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR HAS BEEN TAPPED TO SERVE ON PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA'S TRANSITION TEAM. THOMAS PEREZ WILL HEAD A COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUES. PEREZ SERVED AS DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION. HE ALSO SPENT FOUR YEARS ON THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL.

12PM - 11/19

NO MORE SINGLE CIGARS IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY. THE COUNTY COUNCIL VOTED TO REQUIRE STORES TO SELL CIGARS IN PACKAGES OF AT LEAST FIVE. TOBACCO STORES ARE EXEMPT FROM THE NEW LAW. COUNCIL MEMBERS SAY IT TARGETS CONVENIENCE STORES AND GAS STATIONS.

12PM - 12/8

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY IS CONSIDERING A MORATORIUM ON TAX BREAKS FOR SOME CHARITIES. COUNTY LEADERS WILL HOLD A HEARING NEXT MONTH TO DECIDE WHETHER TO STOP TAX EXEMPTION REQUESTS THAT AREN'T MANDATED BY THE STATE. RELIGIOUS AND MOST CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED. OFFICIALS SAY THE MOVE WOULD HELP FILL A 190-MILLION DOLLAR BUDGET HOLE.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

6AM - 12/31

THE WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM WANTS TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE GETS HOME SAFELY THIS NEW YEAR'S EVE. THE GROUP IS SPONSERING THE SOBER-RIDE PROGRAM...OFFERING FREE CAB RIDES HOME. CABS WILL RUN FROM 10 P-M NEW YEAR'S EVE TO 6 A-M NEW YEAR'S DAY. FARES UP TO 50-DOLLARS ARE COVERED FOR THOSE 21 AND OLDER. THE NUMBER TO CALL IS 1-800-200-TAXI.

5PM - 12/17

A VETERAN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY POLICE LIEUTENANT HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL.... FOR THE *FOURTH TIME THIS YEAR. LIEUTENANT KENNETH PARRISH WAS ARRESTED FRIDAY IN SILVER SPRING, WHEN OFFICERS REPORTEDLY FOUND HIM ASLEEP BEHIND THE WHEEL. 44-YEAR-OLD PARRISH WAS SUSPENDED BACK IN FEBRUARY, WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED FOR DRIVING A POLICE CRUISER WHILE DRUNK. HE WAS OFF DUTY AT THE TIME. TWO OTHER D-U-I'S HAVE BEEN DROPPED BY PROSECUTORS. NOW-- TOP BRASS SAY THEY'RE INVESTIGATING THE INCIDENTS.

11PM - 11/19

NEW AT ELEVEN, FEDERAL AUTHORITIES HAVE BUSTED A HEROIN DISTRIBUTION RING IN FAIRFAX COUNTY. THE F-B-I HAS BEEN TRACKING THE RING IN "OPERATION SMACKDOWN." TEN PEOPLE -- ALL AGED 21 OR UNDER -- HAVE BEEN CHARGED. AGENTS FOLLOWED THE GROUP WHO PURCHASED THE DRUG IN THE DISTRICT AND BALTIMORE TO USE AND SELL IN THE CENTREVILLE AREA. THE RING IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MULTIPLE OVERDOSES AND AT LEAST THREE DEATHS SINCE DECEMBER 2007.

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

6AM - 10/29

SOME PEOPLE LIVING IN D-C PLAN TO FIGHT A BILL THAT WOULD ALLOW THE CITY TO USE EMINENT DOMAIN TO SEIZE NEARLY TWO DOZEN PROPERTIES IN SOUTHEAST. LEGISLATION INTRODUCED BY WARD EIGHT COUNCIL MAN MARION BARRY TARGETS THREE AREAS EAST OF THE ANACOSTIA RIVER. BARRY WANTS TO REPLACE WHAT HE CALLS "URBAN BLIGHT" WITH AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND RETAIL SPACE.

12PM -11/17

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, HIT HARD BY THE HOUSING CRISIS, IS HOPING AN INFUSION OF FEDERAL DOLLARS WILL HELP. OFFICIALS THERE ARE PREPARING TO USE \$4-MILLION TO EASE FORECLOSURES. COUNTY EXECUTIVE CRAIG GERHART SAYS MORE THAN \$2-MILLION IN HOUSING AND URBAN FUNDS WILL BE USED TO BUY UP FORECLOSED PROPERTIES. ANOTHER ONE-MILLION WILL HELP PROPERTY OWNERS WHO EARN LESS THAN \$50-THOUSAND DOLLARS A YEAR.

6PM - 11/27

THEY'VE ALREADY SERVED OUR COUNTRY, AND TODAY A GROUP OF LOCAL VETERANS ALSO HELPED SERVE THOSE IN NEED. A HANDFUL OF FORMER TROOPS DISHED OUT A HOT, THANKSGIVING MEAL TO ABOUT 40 HOMELESS MEN AND WOMEN AT THE CAPITOL HILL UNITED MINISTRY CHURCH IN SOUTHEAST. THE RETIRED VETS ORGANIZE THE MEAL EVERY YEAR WITH HELP FROM OTHER VOLUNTEERS IN THE COMMUNITY. THE CHURCH HOSTS THE HOMELESS FOR THE ENTIRE DAY.

11PM - 10/9

NEARLY A DOZEN WOULD-BE HOMEOWNERS DID EVERYTHING RIGHT IN THE PURCHASE OF THEIR DREAM HOMES. BUT A SCHEME HAS COST THEM THEIR HOMES *AND* THEIR CREDIT. FOUR YEARS AGO ELEVEN PURCHASERS AGREED TO BUY LOTS AT KINGS GRANT SUBDIVISION IN UPPER MARLBORO. THEY CONTRACTED WITH LEON COLEMAN'S COMPANY, "OPPORTUNITY INVESTMENT GROUP", TO BUILD THEIR HOUSES. PROSECUTORS SAY THE BUILDER CASHED THEIR CHECKS, BUT DIDN'T BUILD A THING. NOW BANKS ARE FORECLOSING ON THE HOMES THAT WERE NEVER BUILT....WRECKING THE OWNERS' CREDIT. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS ORDERED COLEMAN TO PAY EVERYONE BACK. AND NOW, LEON COLEMAN, EMMA COLEMAN AND MORTGAGE BROKER KATHY RIDLEY HAVE BEEN INDICTED ON MULTIPLE COUNTS OF THEFT.

HEALTH & HEALTH CARE

12PM - 10/1

MARYLAND LAWMAKERS WANT YOU TO GET OUT AND TAKE A WALK. STARTING TODAY... WALKING BECOMES THE OFFICIAL STATE EXERCISE OF MARYLAND. THE U-S SURGEON GENERAL RECOMMENDS THAT AMERICANS TAKE 10-THOUSAND STEPS A DAY... OR AT LEAST 30 MINUTES OF VIGOROUS WALKING FIVE DAYS A WEEK. WALKING CAN REDUCE YOUR RISK OF HEART ATTACK, STROKE, DIABETES, ARTHRITIS AND A WIDE RANGE OF DISEASES.

12PM - 10/13

THE NATION'S LEADING PEDIATRICIANS GROUP IS OUT WITH NEW ADVICE ON HOW MUCH VITAMIN "D" KIDS SHOULD BE GETTING. THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS SAYS CHILDREN FROM NEWBORNS TO TEENS SHOULD GET 400 UNITS DAILY... *DOUBLE* THE PREVIOUSLY RECOMMENDED AMOUNT. THE CHANGE IS BASED ON MOUNTING RESEARCH THAT VITAMIN "D" KEEPS BONES STRONG, AND MIGHT EVEN REDUCE RISKS FOR CANCER, DIABETES AND HEART DISEASE. VITAMIN D IS FOUND IN MILK, CEREAL AND SOME TYPES OF FISH. BUT THE BEST SOURCE IS SUNLIGHT.

5PM - 11/5

NOW TO HEALTH NEWS... A NEW STUDY SAYS NOT ALL HEART ATTACKS ARE SUDDEN AND INTENSE. DOCTORS SAY SOME SYMPTOMS CAN BE MORE SUBTLE. ONE CARDIOLOGIST TELLS US IN SOME CASES, CERTAIN FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS COULD BE WARNING SIGNS. THEY INCLUDE NAUSEA, VOMITING, COUGHING LOSS OF APPETITE WEAKNESS AND FATIGUE. DOCTORS SAY WOMEN SEEM TO EXPERIENCE MORE SUBTLE SYMPTOMS THAN MEN -- POSSIBLY BECAUSE THEY HAVE SMALLER BLOOD VESSELS. PROMPT TREATMENT IS VITAL TO RECOVERY.

5PM - 11/5

RESEARCHERS NOW SAY VITAMIN-B SUPPLEMENTS WILL *NOT* PROTECT WOMEN FROM CANCER. PREVIOUS STUDIES HAVE SHOWN PEOPLE WITH LOW LEVELS OF VITAMIN-B OFTEN HAVE A *GREATER* RISK FOR CERTAIN CANCERS. BUT, A NEW STUDY OUT OF BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL SUGGESTS OTHERWISE. RESEARCHERS GAVE 54-HUNDRED WOMEN EITHER A DAILY VITAMIN-B SUPPLEMENT OR A PLACEBO. THEY FOUND THE PILLS DID NOT LOWER THE PATIENTS' RISK FOR CANCER OR HEART DISEASE.

RACIAL, ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS & SEXUAL

6AM - 11/17

SUPPORTERS OF GAY MARRIAGE ARE MAKING THEIR VOICES HEARD. RALLIES TOOK PLACE IN ABOUT 300 CITIES THIS WEEKEND.. INCLUDING WASHINGTON. THE DEMONSTRATORS PROTESTED AGAINST CALIFORNIA'S VOTE TO BAN SAME-SEX MARRIAGE. ON ELECTION DAY.. CALIFORNIA VOTERS NARROWLY APPROVED THE BAN. THE MOVE REVERSES THE MARRIAGE RIGHTS GRANTED BY THE STATE'S SUPREME COURT THIS YEAR.

11PM - 11/3

AMERICAN HISTORY BUFFS WILL NOTE THAT BARACK OBAMA IS ENDING HIS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN IN A HISTORIC SPOT IN VIRGINIA. MANASSAS WAS THE SITE OF THE BATTLE OF BULL RUN, THE FIRST MAJOR LAND BATTLE OF THE CIVIL WAR.

11PM - 11/3

THE N-DOUBLE-A-C-P LOST ITS LAWSUIT TO KEEP VIRGINIA POLLS OPEN LONGER *AND* TO ADD VOTING MACHINES TO SOME PRECINCTS. HOWEVER, A JUDGE ORDERED THE ELECTIONS BOARD TO PUBLICIZE THAT ANYONE IN LINE *BY* SEVEN P-M *WILL* BE ALLOWED TO VOTE.

11PM - 12/26

TODAY MARKS THE FIRST DAY OF KWANZAA. THE NON-RELIGIOUS CELEBRATION OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE AND PRIDE LASTS SEVEN DAYS--- ENDING ON JANUARY FIRST. IT'S BASED ON AFRICAN WINTER HARVEST FESTIVALS. A DIFFERENT PRINCIPLE IS CELEBRATED EACH OF THE SEVEN DAYS. MORE THAN 20-MILLION PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD TAKE PART IN KWANZAA CELEBRATIONS.

EDUCATION

12PM - 10/7

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DOESN'T HAVE THE MONEY TO GIVE ITS TEACHERS THEIR SCHEDULED PAY RAISES. THE COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT TOLD PRINCIPALS THAT LABOR CONTRACTS WILL HAVE TO BE RENEGOTIATED.... BECAUSE THE COUNTY CAN'T AFFORD THE SCHEDULED FIVE-POINT-THREE PERCENT PAY HIKE. THE TEACHERS' UNION HASN'T AGREED TO RENEGOTIATE. THE COUNTY IS FACING A PROJECTED 250 MILLION DOLLAR SHORTFALL FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 20-10.

12PM - 12/13

THE NEW INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM HAS A BIG JOB AHEAD. BUT HE'LL HAVE TO DO IT WITH LESS MONEY. TODAY IS WILLIAM HITE'S FIRST DAY ON THE JOB. HE SUCCEEDS JOHN DEASY, WHO'S BEGINNING A NEW JOB WITH THE BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION. HITE INHERITS A \$1.7-BILLION BUDGET THAT COULD FACE SOME SERIOUS CUTS. THE SCHOOL BOARD IS EXPECTED TO NAME A PERMANENT SUPERINTENDENT BY THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

12PM - 12/13

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND IS LEADING THE NATION IN THE RACE TO FIND ALTERNATIVE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY. NEXT FALL, THE UNIVERSITY WILL LAUNCH THE NATION'S FIRST MASTERS OF ENGINEERING PROGRAM IN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY. THE PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO TEACH STUDENTS ABOUT RENEWABLE ENERGY, ADVANCED FUEL CELLS AND BATTERIES, SOLAR ENERGY AND ANALYZING ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS. FULL-TIME STUDENTS CAN COMPLETE THE DEGREE IN 18 MONTHS.

EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMY

12PM - 11/3

VIRGINIA-BASED CIRCUIT CITY ANNOUNCED PLANS TO CLOSE ABOUT 20-PERCENT OF ITS U-S STORES. THE COMPANY PLANS TO SHUT DOWN 155 STORES BY DECEMBER 31ST. THOUSANDS OF WORKERS WILL LOSE THEIR JOBS. THREE MARYLAND STORES ARE AMONG THOSE TO CLOSE THEIR DOORS FOR GOOD. THOSE STORES ARE IN BALTIMORE, BELTSVILLE AND MARLOW HEIGHTS.

6PM - 10/15

BANK OF AMERICA IS ONE STEP CLOSER TO BUYING MERRILL LYNCH. FEDERAL ANTITRUST REGULATORS REVIEWED AND CLEARED THE PURCHASE. THE FEDERAL RESERVE STILL HAS TO APPROVE IT. UNDER THE DEAL, BANK OF AMERICA WOULD ACQUIRE MERRILL LYNCH FOR ALMOST 35-BILLION DOLLARS.

6PM - 12/1

BUSINESSES WERE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY THE SHOPPING NUMBERS FROM BLACK FRIDAY. SALES ON FRIDAY WERE UP THREE PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR...CONSUMERS SPENT ABOUT TEN BILLION DOLLARS... BUT THAT NUMBER DIDN'T HOLD THROUGH THE WEEKEND. SALES WERE DOWN POINT EIGHT PERCENT ON SATURDAY. THE WEEKEND SALES ENDED UP BEING ABOUT TWO PERCENT UP.

6PM - 12/26

SOME MARYLAND STATE EMPLOYEES ARE EXPERIENCING FURLOUGH FRIDAY TODAY. THOUSANDS OF STATE EMPLOYEES STAYED HOME FROM WORK TODAY WITHOUT PAY. IT'S PART OF A FURLOUGH PLAN TO SAVE AROUND 34 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR. EMPLOYEES WILL HAVE TO TAKE FIVE FURLOUGH DAYS. THE STATE'S NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET, MARYLAND FACES UP TO TWO BILLION DOLLARS IN BUDGET PROBLEMS FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

FAMILY ISSUES

12PM - 10/22

FOOD ALLERGIES SEEM TO BE ON THE RISE AMONG AMERICAN CHILDREN. ABOUT ONE IN 26 KIDS IN THE U-S HAD FOOD ALLERGIES LAST YEAR. THAT'S UP ABOUT 18 PERCENT FROM 1997. THE NUMBER OF PEANUT ALLERGIES HAS DOUBLED IN THAT TIME PERIOD. BUT ALSO FIGURING INTO THE EQUATION... PARENTS AND DOCTORS WHO ARE MORE LIKELY TO CONSIDER FOOD ALLERGIES AS A TRIGGER FOR SYMPTOMS.

5PM - 11/19

D-C OFFICIALS SAY THE CITY'S DEPARTMENT OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES IS MAKING PROGRESS IN REDUCING A MASSIVE BACKLOG OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT CASES. MAYOR ADRIAN FENTY SAYS THE NUMBER OF CASES IS DOWN TO NEARLY 500. THAT'S COMPARED TO MORE THAN 17-HUNDRED OVER THE SUMMER. THE AGENCY HAS ALSO HIRED 34 NEW SOCIAL WORKERS. THE DEPARTMENT CAME UNDER SCRUTINY AFTER POLICE FOUND THE DECOMPOSING BODIES OF FOUR CHILDREN IN THEIR SOUTHEAST HOME LAST JANUARY. THEIR MOTHER -- BANITA JACKS --IS CHARGED WITH THEIR MURDERS.

5PM - 11/19

THE ECONOMIC CRISIS IS TAKING A TOLL ON FAMILIES IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY. AND NOW ... MORE OF THEM ARE ASKING FOR FINANCIAL HELP. A NEW REPORT SHOWS THAT IT COSTS A FAMILY OF THREE ROUGHLY 68-THOUSAND DOLLARS A YEAR TO MAKE ENDS MEET *WITHOUT* PUBLIC ASSISTANCE. THAT FIGURE IS LARGELY BASED ON THE HIGH COST OF HOUSING AND CHILD CARE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

ELDERLY & AGING

5AM - 10/15

D.C.'S JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING IS NOW 100 YEARS OLD. MAYOR ADRIAN FENTY AND OTHER CITY LEADERS WILL TAKE PART IN AN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FOR THE D-C GOVERNMENT BUILDING. AN EXHIBIT WILL BE UNVEILED TODAY THAT GIVES A 100 YEAR RETROSPECTIVE OF THE WILSON BUILDING.

5PM - 10/1

THE U-S CENSUS SAYS EIGHT-THOUSAND D-C GRANDPARENTS ARE RAISING THEIR GRANDCHILDREN -- AND NEARLY A QUARTER OF THEM ARE LIVING IN POVERTY. THE PRESIDENT OF THE D-C A-A-R-P CHAPTER BELIEVES THE NUMBER OF GRANDPARENTS IN DIRE NEED IS REALLY MUCH LARGER THAN THE NUMBER WHO HAVE ACTUALLY ASKED FOR HELP.